

**From:** Mary Griffin <maryjo111@yahoo.com>  
**To:** Roberta Mendonca <rmendonc@energy.state.ca.us>  
**Date:** 7/30/01 11:36AM  
**Subject:** Docket # 01-SIT-1

July 30, 2001

From: Kern Audubon Society, P O Box 3581,  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

To: California Energy Commission Docket Unit, 1516  
Ninth Street, MS-4, Sacramento,  
CA 95814

Re: Docket Number: 01-SIT-1

The Kern Audubon Society opposes any limiting of the public participation for the siting process. Moreover, based on the chapter's experiences as an intervenor for the Pastoria Energy Facility, we believe the California Energy Commission should re-examine it's procedures and expand public participation.

Our initial concern regarding the location of the Pastoria Energy Facility was for impacts to the California Condor and several creeks. But it became easily apparent there were many flaws in the planning documents and there was no way an informed decision could be made. And Pastoria was only one in a series of power plants to be studied and approved in Kern County. That was very disturbing because it meant inaccurate information was recycled from project to project. Below are some examples Kern Audubon members (volunteers) discovered:

--There were at least three sets of numbers for the capacity of Kern County's landfill and no information on the Pastoria's impacts.

--No contact had been made with the Kern County Fire Department until the Commission actually had a meeting in Kern County in the Fall of 2000.

--Biological surveys were conducted for plants and animals that never existed on the project site and, sure enough, they weren't found. The omission of several species of flora and fauna were interesting, too.

--The archeological studies were so inaccurate, they

could only be described as grossly incompetent.

--Hazardous wastes were mitigated by a facility that had been closed down by CalEPA and its owners sentenced to prison. It was a highly publicized case, yet time and again, for Pastoria and other Kern County projects, the Commission missed it.

--Water availability was based on water brokers and sellers estimates rather than independent sources.

--Land Use information was not up-to-date. Kern Audubon was repeatedly told we were too late in the process to insert accurate information in the record.

We all need to remind ourselves public participation is not just another form of regulation. Public participation delineates our values. Some are intangible: "The Condor's last stand." Some values do have a price-tag: "How much will the people of Kern County have to subsidize for public services, such as landfills, fire and flood protection." If Kern County is regarded as a convenient dumping ground for projects nobody else wants, then it is even more imperative that staff reports and public concerns be examined much more carefully.

Thank-you for any consideration the Commission may give to our concerns.

Mary J. Griffin  
1604 Duke Drive  
Bakersfield, Ca 93305-1622  
661-871-7304

---

Do You Yahoo!?

Make international calls for as low as \$.04/minute with Yahoo! Messenger  
<http://phonecard.yahoo.com/>